Highlands of New York, August 14. 1782.

Sir,

Before this reaches your excellency, you will probably have heard of the prospect of an approaching accomodation among the belligerent powers, and from the newspapers or hand-bills have seen how far matters had advanced when the last intelligence was received from Europe. The terms which are hinted, if acceded to, are not, I think, disadvantageous to America — and if peace is now obtained, America will secure her liberties and independence by a shorter contest than any nation who struggled for them before her.

The refugees in New York are in fits of despair — they are rending their facings from their uniforms, plucking out their cockades, and uttering execrations. Sir Guy Carleton is striving to calm them, and persuading them to suspend their opinion for the present, and to continue stedfast in their loyalty. I think their fate may be pretty easily developed — they have merited it.

When I reflect on the present prospects, and glance my ideas to what will probably be the future greatness of this rising empire, I am lost in a transport of joy; such I think you feel in your own breast —

although

although you and I can only view them in idea, and feel the high satisfaction, that we had a hand in laying the foundation of the structure, under many fatigues and dangers, and that posterity will enjoy its splendor. – But I call back my pen from this pleasing digression of prospects, to our present state:– the enemy are yet in our country – they must be withdrawn or vanquished – there should be no relaxation on our part until the one or the other takes place, and a peace is fully ratified. The surest way to treat with the enemy, is sword in hand, and the best way to keep him in his senses, is to continue to apply to him those means which brought him to them.

I hope you enjoy your health. I wish for the time when I may have the pleasure of taking you by the hand and paying you my respects in Boston.

Please present my compliments to your lady and all friends.

I have the honor to be,

With the warmest attachment and esteem,

Your Excellency's

Most obedient servant,

W Heath

His Excellency Governor Hancock.

RW1182(1)

g

r.

ion

t

ished

lly

is

ly

t

d,

General Heath

1782